

Fiscal Service, Treasury

§ 210.11

agency issuing payments to the recipient, the RDFI shall immediately notify the agency of the death or incapacity. The proper use of the R15 or R14 return reason code shall be deemed to constitute such notice.

(b) *Notice of reclamation.* Upon receipt of a notice of reclamation, an RDFI shall provide the information required by the notice of reclamation and return the amount specified in the notice of reclamation in a timely manner.

(c) *Exception to liability rule.* An RDFI shall not be liable for post-death benefit payments sent to a recipient acting as a representative payee or fiduciary on behalf of a beneficiary, if the beneficiary was deceased at the time the authorization was executed and the RDFI did not have actual or constructive knowledge of the death of the beneficiary.

(d) *Time limits.* An agency that initiates a request for a reclamation must do so within 120 calendar days after the date that the agency first has actual or constructive knowledge of the death or legal incapacity of a recipient or the death of a beneficiary. An agency may not reclaim any post-death or post-incapacity payment made more than six years prior to the date of the notice of reclamation; provided, however, that if the account balance at the time the RDFI receives the notice of reclamation exceeds the total amount of post-death or post-incapacity payments made by the agency during such six-year period, this limitation shall not apply and the RDFI shall be liable for the total amount of all post-death or post-incapacity payments made, up to the amount in the account at the time the RDFI receives the notice of reclamation and has had a reasonable opportunity to act on the notice (not to exceed one business day).

(e) *Debit of RDFI's account.* If an RDFI does not return the full amount of the outstanding total or any other amount for which the RDFI is liable under this subpart in a timely manner, the Federal Government will collect the amount outstanding by instructing the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank to debit the account utilized by the RDFI. The Federal Reserve Bank will

provide advice of the debit to the RDFI.

[64 FR 17487, Apr. 9, 1999, as amended at 69 FR 13189, Mar. 19, 2004]

§ 210.11 Limited liability.

(a) *Right to limit its liability.* If an RDFI does not have actual or constructive knowledge of the death or legal incapacity of a recipient or the death of a beneficiary at the time it receives one or more benefit payments on behalf of the recipient, the RDFI's liability to the agency for those payments shall be limited to:

(1) An amount equal to: (i) The amount in the account at the time the RDFI receives the notice of reclamation and has had a reasonable opportunity (not to exceed one business day) to act on the notice, plus any additional benefit payments made to the account by the agency before the RDFI responds in full to the notice of reclamation, or

(ii) The outstanding total, whichever is less; plus

(2) If the agency is unable to collect the entire outstanding total, an additional amount equal to:

(i) The benefit payments received by the RDFI from the agency within 45 days after the death or legal incapacity of the recipient or death of the beneficiary, or

(ii) The balance of the outstanding total, whichever is less.

(b) *Qualification for limited liability.* In order to limit its liability as provided in this section, an RDFI shall:

(1) Certify that at the time the benefit payments were credited to or withdrawn from the account, the RDFI had no actual or constructive knowledge of the death or legal incapacity of the recipient or death of the beneficiary;

(2) Certify the date the RDFI first had actual or constructive knowledge of the death or legal incapacity of the recipient or death of the beneficiary, regardless of how and where such information was obtained;

(3)(i) In cases involving the reclamation of Social Security Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance benefit payments, or benefit payments certified by the Railroad Retirement Board or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, provide the name and

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last known address of the following person(s):

(A) The recipient and any co-owner(s) of the recipient's account;

(B) All other person(s) authorized to withdraw funds from the recipient's account; and

(C) All person(s) who withdrew funds from the recipient's account after the death or legal incapacity of the recipient or death of the beneficiary.

(ii) If persons are not identified for any of these subcategories, the RDFI must certify that no such information is available and why no such information is available; and

(4) Fully and accurately complete all certifications on the notice of reclamation and comply with the requirements of this part.

(c) *Payment of limited liability amount.* If the RDFI qualifies for limited liability under this subpart, it shall immediately return to the Federal Government the amount specified in §210.11(a)(1). The agency will then attempt to collect the amount of the outstanding total not returned by the RDFI. If the agency is unable to collect that amount, the Federal Government will instruct the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank to debit the account utilized by the RDFI at that Federal Reserve Bank for the amount specified in §210.11(a)(2).

(d) *Violation of subpart B.* An RDFI that fails to comply with any provision of this subpart in a timely and accurate manner, including but not limited to the certification requirements at §210.11(b) and the notice requirements at §210.13, shall be liable to the Federal Government for any loss resulting from its act or omission. Any such liability shall be in addition to the amount(s) for which the RDFI is liable under §210.10 or §210.11, as applicable.

[64 FR 17487, Apr. 9, 1999, as amended at 69 FR 13189, Mar. 19, 2004]

§210.12 RDFI's rights of recovery.

(a) *Matters between the RDFI and its customer.* This subpart does not authorize or direct an RDFI to debit or otherwise affect the account of a recipient. Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to affect the right an RDFI has under state law or the RDFI's contract

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with a recipient to recover any amount from the recipient's account.

(b) *Liability unaffected.* The liability of the RDFI under this subpart is not affected by actions taken by the RDFI to recover any portion of the outstanding total from any party.

§210.13 Notice to account owners.

Provision of notice by RDFI. Upon receipt by an RDFI of a notice of reclamation, the RDFI immediately shall mail to the last known address of the account owner(s) or otherwise provide to the account owner(s) a copy of any notice required by the Service to be provided to account owners as specified in the Green Book. Proof that this notice was sent may be required by the Service.

§210.14 Erroneous death information.

(a) *Notification of error to the agency.* If, after the RDFI responds fully to the notice of reclamation, the RDFI learns that the recipient or beneficiary is not dead or legally incapacitated or that the date of death is incorrect, the RDFI shall inform the agency that certified the underlying payment(s) and directed the Service to reclaim the funds in dispute.

(b) *Resolution of dispute.* The agency that certified the underlying payment(s) and directed the Service to reclaim the funds will attempt to resolve the dispute with the RDFI in a timely manner. If the agency determines that the reclamation was improper, in whole or in part, the agency shall notify the RDFI and shall return the amount of the improperly reclaimed funds to the RDFI. Upon certification by the agency of an improper reclamation, the Service may instruct the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank to credit the account utilized by the RDFI at the Federal Reserve Bank in the amount of the improperly reclaimed funds.

[64 FR 17487, Apr. 9, 1999, as amended at 69 FR 13189, Mar. 19, 2004]